

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/031,545

Examiner

Edna Wong

Applicant(s)

MURATA ET AL.

Art Unit

1753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment After Final dated May 3, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16-18 and 20-23.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 April 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

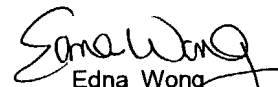
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
Edna Wong  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 1753

### ***EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT***

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **IN THE ABSTRACT**

lines 2-8, the words "An object of the present invention is to provide a method and an apparatus for purifying an oxygen containing gas by which not only the oxygen containing gas can be instantaneously disinfected, deodorized, and purified, but also hardly decomposable organic compounds contained in the gas can be decomposed into low molecular weight compounds such as carbonic acid gas and water; and the method comprises" has been deleted and replaced with the words -- A method comprising --.

#### **IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 22, line 10, the word "drying" has been deleted and replaced with the word -- treating --.

### ***REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims **16-18 and 23** are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art does not teach or suggest a method for purifying an oxygen containing gas comprising the steps of (a) generating, (b) radiating, (c) radiating and (d) irradiating as presently claimed, esp., the step of (d) irradiating the oxygen containing gas treated in said third step, with rays radiated from an infrared lamp and with rays radiated from a halogen lamp to dry the gas.

The prior art does not contain any language that teaches or suggests the above. *JP 10-249356* teaches that the discharging unit discharges purified and sterilized water into a bathtub. Thus, there is no oxygen containing gas discharged that is irradiated with rays radiated from an infrared lamp and with rays radiated from a halogen lamp to dry the gas. Therefore, a person skilled in the art would not have been motivated to adopt the above conditions, and a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be established.

Claims **20-22** are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art does not teach or suggest an apparatus for purifying an oxygen containing gas comprising (a) a first treating room, (b) a second treating room, (c) a third treating room and (d) means for discharging as presently claimed, esp., (c) a third treating room connected to the second treating room and having a device of radiating ultraviolet rays of along wavelength of 300 nm or longer, but shorter than 380 nm, said third treating room further having a drying room wherein a portion for irradiating the oxygen containing gas treated in the third treating room, with rays radiated from an infrared lamp and a portion for irradiating the oxygen containing gas treated in the third treating room, with rays

Art Unit: 1753

radiated from a halogen lamp are installed in order.

The prior art does not contain any language that teaches or suggests the above. Therefore, a person skilled in the art would not have been motivated to adopt the above conditions, and a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be established.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edna Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-1349. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, alt. Fridays off.

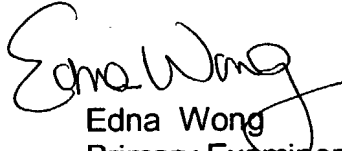
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

Application/Control Number: 10/031,545  
Art Unit: 1753

Page 5

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Edna Wong  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1753

EW  
May 10, 2004